

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 704
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 1259

DEPARTMENT PASS USINT HAVANA; AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS, AMEMBASSY
MAPUTO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, XA, MA, VM, UR
SUBJ: MADAGASCAR PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO MOSCOW
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REF: A) MOSCOW 15363; B) ANT 1216; C) 77 ANT 2232

1. SUMMARY: HAVING BEEN CONDITIONED FOR OVER A YEAR TO PRESIDENT
RATSIRAKA'S RHETORIC I DID NOT FIND HIS MOSCOW SPEECH (REF A)
PARTICULARLY HACKNEYED OR HIS SUPPORT OF SOVIET POSITIONS AND
ACTIONS UNUSUALLY BLATANT.I AM BASING MY REMARKS ON FRENCH

LANGUAGE TASS VERSION PUBLISHED IN OFFICIAL PRESS
BULLETIN WHICH MAY DIFFER SOMEWHAT FROM RUSSIAN VERSION.
END SUMMARY.

2. LAVISH PRAISE HEAPED ON USSR AND BRESHNEV BY RATSIRAKA
CONCENTRATED MOSTLY ON INTERNAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SOVIET REGIME
AND SECONDARILY ON ITS WORLDWIDE ROLE IN QUEST FOR PEACE AND DISARM-
AMENT. EXCEPT FOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF AND "EXPRESSED SATISFACTION"
AT SOVIET/CUBAN ROLE IN ANGOLA, THERE IS NO SPECIFIC APPROVAL OF
SOVIET ACTIONS IN AFRICA OR ANY INVITATION FOR CONTINUED SOVIET
INVOLVEMENT. THERE IS NOTABLY NO ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SOVIET OR CUBAN
ROLE IN ETHIOPIA AND NO REQUEST OR SUPPORT FOR SUCH INVOLVEMENT
IN THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. CLOSEST HE COMES TO THIS IS
STATEMENT THAT MALAGASY FRIENDSHIP WILL BE GIVEN TO ALL PARTIES
WHO ARE PREPARED TO HELP DEFEND INDIAN OCEAN REGION AGAINST
DANGER OF CONFLICT AND CONFRONTATION. HE ALSO MAKES THE GENERAL
DISTINCTION, AS HE HAS IN THE PAST, BETWEEN INTERVENTION MOTIVATED
BY DOMINATION AND GREED AND "FORCES OF LIBERATION WHICH HELP
US RESIST ATTACKS AND MANUEVERS DIRECTED AGAINST (AFRICAN)
STABILITY."
MOST OF SPEECH IS A RESTATEMENT OF MALAGASY POSITIONS ON VARIOUS
AFRICAN AND INDIAN OCEAN ISSUES, COUCHED IN USUAL ANTI-IMPERIALIST
TERMS, THROUGH WHICH RUNS THE SLIGHTLY CONTRADICTORY THEME THAT
THE IMPERIALISTS ARE AT THE SAME TIME DANGEROUS, DESPERATE,
AND DOOMED.

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3. CONFUSING STATEMENTS BY RATSIRAKA ON NEED FOR FEDERAL SOLUTION
IN HORN OF AFRICA UNDOUBTEDLY APPLIES TO ALL OF HORN NOT JUST
ERITREAN PROBLEM. HE CLAIMS TO BE ORIGINATOR OF THIS IDEA AND
LAST DECEMBER PUBLICLY EXPRESSED SOME REGRET THAT SOVIETS HAD TAKEN
IDEA OF HIS AND MADE IT THEIR OWN(REF C).

4. OTHER NOTEWORTHY ASPECT OF RATSIRAKA'S SPEECHES ARE:.

A) BRIEFNESS AND PERFUNCTORY SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREAN POSITION
ON REUNIFICATION.

B) CITATION OF DIEGO GARCIA AS "MOST STRIKING EXAMPLE" OF INDIAN
OCEAN BASES WHICH MUST BE DISMANTLED.

C) DENUNCIATION OF INTER-AFRICAN DEFENSE FORCE AS A "MERE
CHANGE OF COSTUMES" WHICH WILL NOT PREVENT "SNATCHING OFF OF
MASKS."

D) REFERENCE TO "PETITS BOURGEOIS CRUSADE TO DEFEND HUMAN
RIGHTS"

E) EQUATION OF MALAGASY AND SOVIET SOCIALISM. THIS IS NEW TACT ON
THIS SUBJECT FOR RATSIRAKA HAS IN THE PAST TAKEN PAINS TO DISTINGUISH
BETWEEN HUMANISTIC MALAGASY SOCIALISM, WITH THE WELFARE OF MAN AS
ITS MAIN OBJECT, AND THAT OF PURE COMMUNISM WHICH TREATS MAN
AS A UNIT OF PRODUCTION OR CONSUMPTION.

5. COMMENT: IN SPITE OF FULSOME PRAISE HEAPED ON SOVIETS I SEE NO RADICAL DEPARTURES IN THE SPEECH FROM POSITIONS WHICH RATISRAKA HAS HELD AND EXPRESSED IN THEPAST. THIS DOS NOT MEAN THAT TRIP COULD NOT LEAD TO CLOSER SOVIET/MALGASY TIES, PARTICULARLY IN MILITARY FIELD. PRESENCE OF SOVIET DEFENSE MINISTER AT CEREMONIES AND OF MALAGASY DEFENSE SEC GEN IN RATSIRAKA'S PARTY COULD BE INDICATIVE ON THIS SORE. BARRETT.

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